

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Nervous necrosis virus (NNV), also known as VNN (Viral Nervous Necrosis) and VER (Viral Encephalopathy and Retinopathy), a pathogen found in many varieties of hatchery-reared marine fish, has caused mass mortality of such fish at their larval or juvenile stages. NNV belongs to the family Nodaviridae. Fish nodaviruses isolated from different species (such as SJNNV, BFNNV, JFNNV, TPNNV, RGNNV, GNNV etc.) are closely related to each other owing to the high similarity of the conserved region of their coat protein genes. NNV, also named as fish encephalitis virus (FEV) and piscine neuropathy nodavirus (PNN), is an unenveloped spherical virus with particles sized between 25 and 34 nm. The virus is characterized by vacuolation of the nerve tissues. Viral Nervous Necrosis (VNN) disease has been found in many countries under various names such as viral fish encephalitis, fish encephalomyelitis, cardiac myopathy syndrome. The hosts of NNV include many species of marine fish, for example: parrotfish, sea bass, turbot, grouper, stripped jack, tiger puffer, barfin ~~berfin~~ flounder, halibut, barramundi, and wolfish ~~spotted-wolfish~~. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- NNV is susceptible to a lot of marine fish, which include, but are not limited to, parrotfish, sea bass, turbot, grouper, stripped jack, tiger puffer, ~~berfin~~ barfin flounder, halibut, barramundi, and wolfish ~~spotted-wolfish~~. The most susceptible fish for NNV is grouper. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- VNN disease is caused by nervous necrosis virus (NNV), a kind of fish nodavirus. It has been found in many marine fish, such as parrotfish, sea bass, turbot, grouper, stripped jack, tiger puffer, ~~berfin~~ barfin flounder, halibut, barramundi, and ~~spotted-wolfish~~ wolfish. --